

Senator Luann Ridgeway Capitol Report
May 2, 2008

Storms Rock Gladstone Area

At 2:00 a.m. Friday May 2, I was awakened by storms at my house. Our power had just gone out and the wind was howling. It seemed we were on the edge of storms that were hitting harder south of our Smithville home.

What seemed to be happening as I awoke through the night became reality as the morning light pushed away the storms. Since there was still no power at my home, I went to our old battery powered radio (surprised I still had one!). This is when I started hearing of the extent to which storms had ravaged Clay County and other KC areas.

Our State Emergency Management Agency is coming to Gladstone at noon on Friday to determine whether our area will be declared a disaster area. I, along with Representatives Jerry Nolte and Ryan Silvey and various Gladstone leaders, will accompany them. At this point, we simply don't know the extent of the damage. The only thing we do know is that there appears to be no loss of life, for which we are thankful.

While government will play a large part in recovering from this disaster, I want you to also be aware of the tremendous effort from private citizens, businesses and churches. The Outback Restaurant on Chouteau will be providing lunch and dinner for Red Cross Volunteers at Antioch Bible Church today. The Outback will also be providing food for storm cleanup volunteers at 109th and Donnaly as well as providing lunch for school volunteers at a private school (Oakhill Day School) that was severely damaged. Kevin McEvoy is one of the managers at the Outback who is making this happen. If you get a chance, it would be nice if you dropped him a note of thanks as well as offering thanks to Antioch Bible Church for their hospitality.

As more information becomes available, I will update this report. In the meantime, if you can volunteer to help, please contact Gladstone City Hall at (816) 436-2200. They will take your information and have the Volunteer Coordinator contact you.

Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers as we recover from these storms.